

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 111757Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8196
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08183

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: FDP LEADERS' ASSESSMENT OF BONN COALITION
PROSPECTS

1. WOLFGANG MISCHNICK, CHIEF OF THE FDP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, HAS TOLD ME THAT HE BELIEVES THINGS WILL BEGIN LOOKING UP FOR THE GOVERNMENT COALITION HERE.
 2. MISCHNICK PERCEIVED THREE REASONS WHY THE COALITION HAS RECENTLY APPEARED STALE: (1) THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF THE SPD; (2) THE LONG DELAY IN GETTING THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC STIMULATION PROGRAM APPROVED AT ALL FEDERAL LEVELS; AND (3) THE ABSENCE OF ANY NEED FOR THE COALITION TO VOTE TOGETHER ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS IN THE BUNDESTAG. MISCHNICK SAID HE THOUGHT THE SPD WOULD
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NOW PERFORM BETTER, THAT THE ECONOMIC STIMULATION PROGRAM WOULD HAVE SOME EFFECT, AND THAT COMMON VOTING IN THE BUNDESTAG ON UPCOMING PROGRAMS WOULD REVIVE THE SOLIDARITY OF THE COALITION AND STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT.

3. MISCHNICK EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE COALITION

WOULD HOLD UNTIL 1980 OR, AT LEAST, UNTIL 1978.

4. MISCHNICK CITED TWO UPCOMING POLITICAL EVENTS WHICH WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON FDP COALITION TACTICS:

--THE FIRST RELATED TO THE CDU HANDLING OF THE GOVERNMENT TAX PACKAGE IN THE BUNDESRAT. IF THE CDU OBLIGED LOWER SAXONY AND THE SAARLAND TO VOTE AGAINST THIS PACKAGE, DESPITE FDP MEMBERSHIP IN THOSE STATE GOVERNMENTS, MISCHNICK SAID THE FDP WOULD BE MUCH MORE RELUCTANT TO ENTER OTHER COALITIONS WITH THE CDU NEXT YEAR AT THE STATE LEVEL.

--THE SECOND RELATED TO THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN LOWER SAXONY. MISCHNICK EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE FDP MIGHT HOLD ITS OWN OR LOSE SLIGHTLY IN THOSE ELECTIONS, BUT OBSERVED THAT A NET GAIN IN VOTES COULD HAVE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE BONN COALITION.

5. MISCHNICK SHOWED HIMSELF REMARKABLY RELAXED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGING COALITIONS. HE SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS NOT A LIKELIHOOD, BUT DID NOT IMPLY THAT HE REGARDED IT AS ANATHEMA.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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